

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel gas tank for supplying a fuel cell with fuel gas;

a purge valve for purging fuel gas from a fuel gas electrode of the fuel cell;

a diluting device for diluting the fuel gas discharged from the purge valve with an oxidizing gas,

wherein the diluting device is connected to the purge valve, and

the diluting device discharges the fuel gas discharged by the purge valve after dilution with the oxidizing gas;

means for determining a required output quantity of the fuel cell;

oxidizing gas supply means for supplying the oxidizing gas to the fuel cell in a supply quantity corresponding to the required output quantity;

abnormality detection means for detecting an operation abnormality of the purge valve; and

change means for changing the supplied quantity of said oxidizing gas when the operation abnormality of the purge valve is detected,

wherein said change means is an oxidizing gas supply increase means that increases the supplied quantity of said oxidizing gas when said operation abnormality of the purge valve is detected, and

the operation abnormality of the purge valve is detected when a discharge quantity of the fuel gas discharged from the purge valve becomes larger than a predetermined quantity.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the increased quantity of said oxidizing gas is a quantity that can inhibit the occurrence of an abnormal oxidation reaction after the fuel gas is diluted with the oxidizing gas.

5. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the back pressure of the purge valve changes according to the supplied quantity of said oxidizing gas.

6. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 5, wherein the back pressure of the purge valve rises with the increase in the supplied quantity of said oxidizing gas.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:
a fuel gas tank for supplying a fuel cell with fuel gas;
a purge valve for discharging a fuel gas from a fuel cell as a fuel off-gas;
a diluting device for diluting said fuel off-gas discharged from said purge valve with an oxidizing off-gas from said fuel cell,
wherein the diluting device is connected to the purge valve, and
the diluting device discharges the fuel gas discharged by the purge valve after dilution with the oxidizing off-gas;
means for determining the required output quantity of said fuel cell;
oxidizing gas supply means for supplying the oxidizing gas to said fuel cell in a supply quantity corresponding to said required output quantity;
abnormality detection means for detecting an operation abnormality of said purge valve; and

change means for changing the supplied quantity of the oxidizing gas when an

abnormality of the purge valve is detected,

wherein the change means is an oxidizing gas supply increase means for increasing the supplied quantity of said oxidizing gas when an abnormality of said purge valve is detected when a discharge quantity of the fuel gas discharged from the purge valve becomes larger than a predetermined quantity.

9. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for determining a load required quantity of said fuel cell system;

means for determining an auxiliary unit power quantity of said fuel cell system; and

means for determining said required output quantity based on said determined load required quantity and said auxiliary unit power quantity.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a fuel cell system in which a fuel gas from a fuel cell is discharged from a purge valve, diluted with an oxidizing gas, and discharged, comprising the steps of:

determining a required output quantity of the fuel cell;

supplying the oxidizing gas to the fuel cell in a supply quantity corresponding to the required output quantity;

detecting an operation abnormality of the purge valve when a discharge quantity of the fuel gas discharged from the purge valve becomes larger than a predetermined quantity; and

changing the supplied quantity of the oxidizing gas by increasing the supplied quantity of said oxidizing gas when the operation abnormality of said discharge means is detected.